

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

November 5, 2008 MINUTES

Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Anthony Bibbo, Marianne Cook, Joe De Vito (Chair), Richard Dyer, Chris Fortunato, Matt Green, Police Officer Jeffrey Mace, Ellen Manning, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Stephen Ross, Terance Sack, Robert Staulo
Students: Allison Clott, Greg Kelley, Jennie Krems, Zoe Pepper-Cunningham, Annie Staulo

Regrets: Donna Gordon, Peter Harrington, Joanne Kazarian, John Staulo, Kirsten Tuohy
Students: Sam Arsenault, Maya Guttman, Tamra Matama, Kyle Russo, Adam Sangiolo, Ariana Tabatabaie

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: Ben Weishbuch, Students: Emma Collins (NSHS), Noam Gilam (NSHS), Jason Green (NSHS), Grace Herman (NSHS), Mazie Hickey (NSHS), Kyle Olson (NSHS)

The meeting was opened at 7:05pm and chaired by Joe De Vito.

Introductions were made and we welcomed more new students. It was noted that former Police Youth Officer Jim O'Loughlin who transferred to the Boston Police force, had a recent accident and broke his neck. We will get address so we can send cards to him.

A motion to accept the minutes of October 1, 2008 passed.

Treasurer's report: We've had small expenses of \$42.61 and will expect about a \$500 custodian bill for use of City Hall for the 10/19/08 Autumn Invasion event. We added \$75 fund-raised at Autumn Invasion to the revolving account for a total balance of \$681.12

Autumn Invasion

This annual event, held Sunday, October 19, had only about 100-150 teens in attendance. It was noted that the day was very raw and cold, and there were some other competing events. We've had 400-500 people attending in past years. Bev noted this is the first year that we started planning it in mid-September; we usually started during the summer. If we hold the event again, we should make it noon to 3pm as the last hour has recently had the poorest attendance.

Jennie thought it would be better attended if it were on a Saturday, and earlier in the month. Ellen said teens at the Student Center said it was well advertised on Face-book. Greg suggested if clubs were invited, more students would participate. But if we had it earlier in October, the school clubs are just starting. There were some advertisements in the schools and it went in the newspapers.

Bob Staulo and Stephanie reviewed the original intent of the event: to bring students from the two high schools together to see and be in our City Hall, to provide a safe fun event, to provide resources about various issues, and obviously to showcase the various bands and performers. They asked for students' feedback.

Chris brought up the idea of monthly coffee houses, and collaborating with other groups to share the tasks of making such events happen as well as getting such groups to help underwrite some of

the funding costs. Ellen said the Teen Center is available, and also the auditorium at the Newton Community Service Center.

The adults suggested the teens come up with a list of ideas for the next meeting.

Marianne brought up the application for funds and there was some discussion, leading into our own Foundation efforts.

Youth Foundation

Matt said we've been exploring ways to raise money from the community for youth. Once we have funds, we'd accept applications for youth programs.

Nominations:

A motion was made and passed to accept with regrets the resignation of Sharon Stout from the Advisory Board due to personal reasons.

The student applications for the Youth Commission before us this evening included:

Emma Collins (NSHS senior), Jason Green (NSHS junior), Kyle Olson (NSHS junior)

A motion was made and passed to accept the above student applicants for this 2008-2009 year.

Other Business

There have been recent articles in the Newton TAB regarding the incidents of drunken driving accidents involving youth, although we noted 1 of the 3 accidents actually involved alcohol. The Youth Commission should respond. Ellen suggested we write a letter-to-the-Editor. We've supported prevention measures and programs including the annual sponsorship of Freedom from Chemical Dependency seminars in the high schools; and the research and publication of the Drug & Alcohol Prevention booklet. Bob and Ellen will email Bev with some draft wording. Chris spoke to the need for more evidenced-based education and Ben said messages need to be consistent.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, DECEMBER 3 at 7:00pm in the City Hall cafeteria.